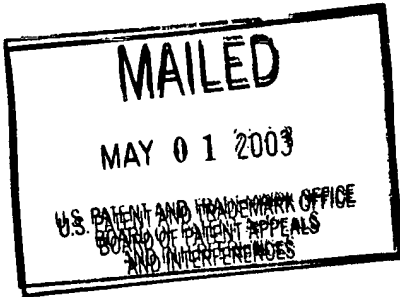


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte SARVAR PATEL

Appeal No. 2003-0446
Application No. 09/127,767



NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE REGARDING ORAL HEARING

The file record reflects that the appellant filed a Reply Brief (Paper No. 13) on July 22, 2002. On page 1 of the Reply Brief, appellant included a section requesting an oral hearing in connection with the appeal.

Effective December 1, 1997, 37 CFR § 1.194(b) was amended to provide that a request for an oral hearing must be filed in a separate paper.¹

¹ 37 CFR § 1.194(b) provides in pertinent part:

If appellant desires an oral hearing, appellant must file, in a separate paper, a written request for such hearing accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(d) within two months from the date of the examiner's answer.

Since the appellant's request for oral hearing was not filed in a separate paper as required by 37 CFR § 1.194(b), the request for an oral hearing cannot be granted. Further, the \$280 fee for the oral hearing fee submitted with the Notice of Appeal is refundable under 37 CFR § 1.26 since it was paid by mistake or in excess of that required.

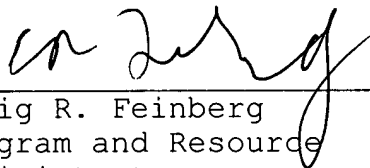
If appellant desires the \$280 fee for the oral hearing fee to be refunded, a request for refund should be filed as soon as possible.

If appellant still desires an oral hearing, a petition under 37 CFR § 1.183 must be filed **within two weeks** of the mail date of this notice. Such a petition must include (1) a request to suspend the separate paper requirement of 37 CFR § 1.194(b); (2) a showing of facts to establish that an extraordinary situation exists and that justice requires the separate paper requirement of 37 CFR § 1.194(b) be suspended or waived; and (3) be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(h). This **two week time period** for filing a petition under 37 CFR § 1.183 is not extendable under 37 CFR § 1.136(a). The failure to timely file a petition under 37 CFR § 1.183 will

result in the appeal being decided without an oral hearing (i.e., on brief).²

By Order of the:

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES



Craig R. Feinberg
Program and Resource
Administrator

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² If the appellants decide not to file a petition under 37 CFR § 1.183, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences would appreciate written notice thereof so that a decision on the appeal can be expedited.